

DAILY, per Year ..... BUNDAY, per Year.
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Year.
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month.
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## The Going of Monsieur Butin.

The preponderant sentiment of the American people is at this time in favor of the Nicaragua route for the canal, as against the Panama route. This is not because the question has been weighed by everybody from the point of view of the engineer, or even of the navigator. It it because the Nicaragua project has been identified for years in the public mind, for various well-known historical reasons, with American enterprise; while the Panama project has always been a foreign affair. Moreover, it long appeared that even if the Panama route was really the better, it was not avail-

able for us. At the critical time when public attention in this country might at least have been turned to a serious consideration of Panama as an alternative by a straightforward, reasonable offer from the French company, the business of negotiation was so conducted by its President, in the interest of his shareholders, that it was impossible for our Canal Commission to report otherwise than in favor of Nicaragua. It is of little importance to Americans whether the failure of M. HUTIN to seize h s opportunity resulted from diplomatic deficiencies of his own, or from indecision or too great greed on the part of those whom he represented. That is a matter between him and them. Either way. the Frenchmen saw their chance go by.

We suppose that the resignation yesterday of President HUTIN of the Panama Canal Company is due partly to the disapproval of his constituents on past scores, and partly to the hope that another person in his place may yet succeed in marketing with our Government the De Lesseps ditch.

Is there any good foundation for sch a hope, with matters standing as they are at present? Probably not. To gain even the show of a hearing, the French company's desire to sell will have to speed straight and fast to overtake the Hepburn and Morgan Nica- playe i on them. agua bills in Congress.

## A Case of Conscience.

case of conscience will come un before the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at its meeting at Dallas, in Texas, next May; and that it should arise will be highly creditable to the moral sense of a very remarkable and very interesting matter of history of the Civil War and of proceedings by Congress.

Before the Civil War the Southern printing and distribution of ment was seized and for about two years | under all its aspects. used for Government printing. The A very different forecast is made measure was introduced into the Fiftyfourth Congress giving the Southern Book Concern \$288,000 as compensation for this use and for damages done, and in the next Congress the bill was passed by the votes of both parties. " It was especially gratifying to me," said Senator CLAY of Georgia, speaking in the Senators had largely contributed to in addition to their own. the passage of the act providing for the payment of a just claim going to a Southern institution." These remarks were called out by a resolution offered the day before by Senator Lopoz in- learn English rather than French or structing the Committee on Claims to inquire as to the circumstances which decrease. The decisive factor in the had been conne ted with the passage of the bill and the payment of the money under it.

These circumstances as discovered very extraordinary. They were that the Book Agents of the Church had agreed to pay and had paid a lobbyist at per cent of the amount of damages secured from Congress, or \$100,800. As to this contract misrepresentation and duplicity were used to decrive Southern Senators Senator Pasco of Florida telegraphed to the agents at Nashville asking if a report of an agreement to pay the lobbyist of per cent was true and received the answer. 'The statement is untrue and you are hereby authorized to deny it." and accordingly be made the denial is the henate. When Senator HATE of Transmor size asked them by telegraph if ' 40 per sent, or may other fer ' had been offered they replied simply by quoting their despatch to Senator Pancor

The truth was that a fee of \$6 per cent had been allowed. Separor fiber, thereform in a special on disper 10, 1801, exprepared his some of outrage at such dealing and and that "the conduct of the men who apparently are responsible for this fraud should be vestibleted and papement." for " hise Reports was jed to bulleys that this sutite sum was to go for the heartt of the Church, when in fact, more time a third of it was otherwise appropriated "The Methodist Church of the South, of which for more then a quarter of a century I have been a member," he added "cannot afford to, and will not approve, ratify or in may way pulliate the conduct of the guilty porties " Moreover, when Senator Hoan who had favored the bill said that the Southern Methodist Book

ness transaction, to be lobbled through Congress," said Senator BACON of " would have been abhorrent Georgia, to the mind and thought of almost every Senator and Representative who supported it."

The report of the investigating committee recited the facts, but held the Southern Methodist Church "utterly blameless," its agents alone being responsible. The Bishops of the Church, accordingly, adopted a resolution in which they gave the assurance "that if the Senate, by affirmative action, declares the passage of the bill due to such misleading statements, we will take the proper steps to have the entire amount returned to the Government. The Senate, however, voted to take no further action in the matter, on the ground that " the injury resulting therefrom affected only the beneficiaries of the fund and not the United States. That is, the loss fell on the Southern Methodists and the case of conscience was for them to decide for themselves.

Within a few days the subject has been brought up anew in declarations by the North and the South Georgia Methodist Conferences that, "though the claim was just, the agents had deceived the Senate, and the General Conference should take steps to return the money. This position is the more honorable to them as men of soundness of moral sense, because, in all probability, by such a restitution the publishing concern would be reduced to bankruptcy, for over one hundred thousand dollars has already been paid to Mr. STAHLMAN, the agent. " Better that result," say the Georgia Conferences, " than to condone a falsehood." The Rev. Dr. GEORGE G. SMITH, a Methodist minister, takes the contrary ground, however, in a letter to the Augusta Chronicle of Monday that as " the debt was just and ought to have been paid thirty years ago, there is no reason for refunding the money. "Let Mr. STAHLMAN keep his money," he says, " and use the remnant for the good of the injured parties; he only adopted the sharp practice of politics and if he was mistaken, it was an error of the head." That is, according to the Rev. Dr. SMITH, the end justified the means; and, to our notion, the error " was of the heart rather than

It is questionable if such moral obliquity will find any more favor at the General Conference in Texas next May than it received from the very honorable Southern Senators and Representatives who expressed in Congress their indignation at the trick which had been

It is better that the Southern Book Concern should be bankrupted than that the bankruptcy should be in the moral sense of the Methodist Church.

French the Dominant Language In the eighteenth century French was spoken currently, if not exclusively, at almost every Court on the Continent the Southern Methodists. It involves of Europe, and was accounted indispensable, not only by English diplomatists, but also by English travellers. It then bade fair to become the medium of universal intercommunication. There Methodists had established at Nash- has been so marked a change in this ville, in Tennessee, a publishing house respect that the prospect of French becoming a world tongue, so far as civilreligious literature and had invested in | ized peoples are concerned, is commonly it and its plant the great sum of \$700,- looked upon as extinct, even by French-000. When Nashville was occupied by men themselves, who since 1870 have the Union army, in 1862, this establish- taken a gloomy view of their future

town having surrendered and the prop- Mr. H. G. WELLS, the author of the reerty of the citizens being under the pro- markable series of articles entitled tection of the national authority, a "Anticipations," which have been in course of publication in the Fortnightly and North American reviews. In a recent number of the Fortnightly the conviction was expressed by Mr. Wells that neither English nor German, but French, has the best chance of becoming a world language, that is to say the language which educated persons in all countries Senate in June, 1898. " that Republican | will be most powerfully incited to learn

It is pointed out that among personnot actually subject to British or American rule, and neither waiters nor commercial travellers, the inducements to German, do not increase, but actually matter is the amount of science and thought which the acquisition of a language will open to the man who learns It is, therefore, pronounced a fact and reported by that committee were of great significance that the number of books at present published in English is less then that published in French or German, and that the proportion of serious books is very greatly less.

Moreover, the existing conditions hook production for the English-reading public offer no hope of any immediate change in this particular. Mr. Write directs attention to the fact that there is neither honor nor reward there is not even food or sheiter-for the American or the Englishman who devoles a year or so of his life to the adequate treatment of any spaceous question; and so small is the finglish reading public with any special intervel in science that a great number of important foreign eccentile works are not even translated into Engtight fruch translations as do see the light are made only to sell, and are too often the work of sli-paid women and girls, who have no special innewjedge publishers do not care to bring out serious books, alieging that those diand pay, which as kept another may of saying that there is no reading public for great men either in Regiand or the Linter wars Brister, no sintelligence in the firstin-Court, that might be any form of recogartist compensate the philosophical or of subjecting his banking enterprises

lar matient the acceptific or philosophical wenith roll into his tanks. In fermity of ign-Concern " rought properly to return the his contemporaries, and all the most seems shie to shake the cradulity of money to the Treasury of the United delightful things of life, for the barren most of his followers. He mingles

States," as having been obtained by reward of a not very certain righteous false representations. Senator CLAY self-applause. Mr. Wells concedes assented. "The idea that it was a busithe grievances of the study, might well enough be allowed to rest there. He insists, however, that they must be recognized in any forecast of the future of the English tongue, because the intellectual decline of the literature published in English involves ultimately the decline of the language, and of al the political possibilities that go with the wide extension of a language.

Mr. WELLS has no doubt that German will be disseminated beyond its natural limits during the coming years, but not to the same extent as French. It is admitted that there are more books published in Germany than in France, just as there are more books published in France than in England; but it is pronounced questionable whether the reader of German has quite such a catholic feast spread before him as has the reader of French. Whatever may be said of French fiction on some grounds, it is indisputably attractive to foreigners; on the other hand, there is a mass of German fiction that is probably as uninteresting to a foreigner as are the great majority of English and American novels.

Then, again, German, as compared with French, is unmelodious and unwieldy; and, in print, it is cursed with a blinding lettering that the German is now too patriotic to sacrifice. Before the War of 1870 there was a growing tendency to print German books, that looked forward to an audience wider than a national one, in the Roman type which is used by Englishmen, Frenchmen, Italians, Spaniards and Portuguese; but there has since been a reaction in favor of the Gothic type, which is so trying to read. A similar patriotic tendency has checked the development of new words of classical origin. By insisting upon the evolution of scientific terms from Teutonic roots the Germans have obstructed the international use of such terms. The indigenous German technical word is clumsy, and remains compromised by its every-day relations, to the end of time dragging a lengthening chain of unsuitable associations. The shade of meaning, the limited qualification, that a Frenchman can attain with a mere twist of the sentence, the German must either abandon or laboriously overstate with some colossal wormcast of parenthesis. That the German and French tongues will come into conflict for ascendancy in Continental Europe Mr. Wells feels assured, and he is disposed to believe that French will become preponderant in the great urban region that will arise about the

We have said that the number of books published in French is greater than that published in English. This fact of itself demonstrates that the French reading public is something different. and very much larger than the existing French political system. Other facts, often overlooked, are noted by Mr. WELLS, to wit: there is a critical reception for a work published in French that is one of the few things worth a wiiter's having; and, again, the French translators are the most alert and efficient in the world. One has only to see a Parisian bookshop, we are told, and to recall an English one, to realize the unattainable standing of the French. The English shopful is either brandnew fiction, or illustrated narratives of travel, or gilded versions of the classics of past times, done up to give away. The French bookshop, on the other hand, reeks of contemporary intellectual life; the serried ranks of lemoncovered volumes cover the whole range of human thought and interest.

Then, too, as we have said, the Frenchman has with the Englishman and the Italian a certain community of technical, scientific and philosophical phraseology, so that it is often easier for an Englishman with some special knowledge of his subject to read and appreciate a subtle and technical work in French than it is for him to read a French novel. Moreover, French technical terms, being derived from the Latin or the Greek are not so immediately and constantly brought into contrast and contact with their roots as they would be if, like so many patriotic German technicalities. they were derived from native radicals. They are, consequently, free to qualify and develop a final meaning distinct from their original intention. In the growing and changing body of science, this counts for much.

As between French and German, it. is finally to be noted that against the former tongue are arrayed hostile frontiers. Germany has hostile neighbors who fear her ascendency, and have set their hearts against the use of her intguage. Among the Slav, Bohemian and Hungarian peoples, and in Roumania, French will attack German in the flank, and will have a clear prospect. of predominance

# The Millionaire Meamericer

What is the secret of down ALEXAN-DER DOWLE of Zion City, Ill.) Thus celebrated character boidly proclaims binnelf to be the second Elazan. " Filesati the Restorer . He has given himself the title of General Oversear of the Christian Catholic Church, and between tifty and easily thousand parsons believe as him stoplically and trust their chances of happiness in the next world and their of the motter to be translated. English property in this to his hespital. In his official organ, Leaves of Healing he says I had be my hard and to she narrow disasceal and consumeral mannersman which I sunted the country of the whitest & of his organic. I have the which productions. There is no toody of money of same win have marked ages to get that

half attempts have been made in the litinois Legislature to find some way equalific exiter for powerty and popu- to State supervision. He is a primate burnley and spaye his fingers at the litate In fine the more powerful a man's The more he is "persecuted" by the intelligence, the more distinctly be coust infidely the more cultius acts the Howsee that to devote himself to increasing seites are sed the faster the deposits of the English tongue will be to more gauge against his opponents he is withfice comfort, the respect of the bulk of out a rival even in Chicago. Nothing

photic frenzy with land speculation and appears to combine is an unusua degree the qualities of the prophe and the man of business. A former member of his flock, who is now suing him as a copartner in the Zion lace industries, gives this partial list of ELIJAH the Second's employments:

"He is president of the 'Zion College,' has a divine healing home,' a bank, a printing and publishing house, a livery stable, a home for erring romen, a lumber concern, a mail order business mest market, is in the land and investment bust sees and also has a dry goods store."

This same backslider testified that Dowle told him that Zion City would be very rich and that he [DowIE] " would be one of the richest men in the world from the growth and prosperity of Zion City and Zion's different industries, and from the sale of lots on the site of Zion City." In Leaves of Healing the joys and glories of the future Zion are painted in connection with the boom of Zion City lots on the lake front.

The backslider testified that to join Zion you have to " repent, restore that which you have taken," [restore it to Dowie, presumably] "confess, and promise to obey implicitly the Overseer of the LORD;" that Dowie's people fear im and believe that he can call down the curse of Gop upon their heads; that Dowle had threatened to curse Dwight L. MOODY if Mr. MOODY did not cease attacking the Overseer of the LORD; and that Mr. Moopy's death was called by the prophet a punishment for those attacks. The backslider also testified that he at one time believed that Dowie could call down the curse and could heal the sick by his prayers. The witness had a family and friends and business relations in England and didn't want to come to this country, but Dowie commanded him to come, " in the name of the LCRD," and there was no staying. Dowle would wave his hands and hold the witness close to his body when pray-

ing with him. Magnetism, mesmerism, hypnotismsome or all of these influences radiated from the Prophet and compelled obedience on the part of the "sensitives." It was shown at the trial that he " has been known to clasp persons close to his breast until they have been affected by the magnetism of his person and have, according to his disciples, gone from his presence into the world as thoroughly mesmerized as possible and absolutely subservient to his will." The attorney for the backslider insisted that Dowie came to the United States from Australia with only \$100 in his pocket and has mesmerized several million dollars. Whatever be the explanation of his power over his converts, the power seems to be virtually absolute. No other shaman or medicine man has more docile followers or has ever made the business so profitable. The amount of credulity in the world seems to be an invariable quantity. Or is it greater than ever in an age often deemed unbelieving?

## Hawthorn and Lavender.

Contemporaneously with the savage magazine attack on the memory of his dead friend, ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, Mr. W. E. HENLEY has given to the world a tastefully bound and handsomely printed little volume of verse entitled " Hawthorn and Lavender."

The title imports sweetness and light, but is hardly justified by the contents of

the book. We are at a loss to know whether Mr. HENLEY intends to place the following exquisite bit of verse under Hawthorn

or Lavender: " Will I die of drink? Why not? Won't I pause and think? What? Why in seeming wise Waste your breath' Everybody dies-

A similar doubt arises in regard to these lovely lines: "And on the heart of the world there falls

A strange, half desperate peace: A wer worn, militant, gray jubilance in the unkind, implacable tyranny Of Winter, the obscene Old, crapulous Regent, who in his joins,-O, who but feets he carries in his loins

And of death! "

The wild, sweet blooded, wonderful harlot, Spring! If ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON knows what is passing in this world, and anything can stir his gentle spirit to anger or revenge, he must be more than satisfied with the punishment of his faithless friend, whose perceptions have become so dulled as to make him think that this stuff is poetry, and Hawthorn and Lay-

It is worthy of note that the man who calls Robert Louis Stevenson a cad There is ample medical authority for the calls Winter obscene and Spring a

ender at that!

horrstary Long has officially disposed of Admiral Dawer's mistaken attempt to attach extraneous matter to the verdict of the Court of Inquiry. The Department's treatment of the Admiral is dignified and excoolingly kind under the cir cumplaine.

**CORNEL COMMONWY TO SECURITY OF** Aut an Habmunting Treatme From the Chicago Trabuna And may, and the literary man wing had entired \$100 by a syndront article on the hat to Russ for Theinings Francisco. If I may make you had to Francisco. Fift or get You wife I should be perfectly impay

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# The SHIP SERVER

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INQUEST ON A MUMMY. dventure of a Deceased Inca Lady

Lowbon, Dec. 14.—London has been ntertained by a case, which might be called "The Mummy and the Coroner, which has just had a short run in the King's sench Division before Mr. Justice Darling. The case has even moved the Times to ditorial humor. In its review of the suit

"Mrs. Aitken, the plaintiff, obtained a mummy in Peru, reputed to be the mummy of a lady Inca, and brought it to Europe for presentation to the fathers of the Maison de Melle in Belgium. Now Peruvian mummles differ widely from the wellknown Egyptian variety. They are not embalmed, nor are they enclosed in cases. "They appear to be merely sun-dried

and then wrapped in cerements of a peculiar fabric with the knees drawn up to the body and the head bowed down to the knees. They are said to be rare, though it is hard to see why any one should care to possess an object so unsightly and so little edify ing, but their market value is not high, cording to the experts, perhaps because their physical condition is not, let us say, quite so stable as that of an Egyptian

mummy. "Mrs. Aitken brought her mummy to England apparently in good condition It was landed at Liverpool and there consigned to the London and North-Western Railway for transmission to the Maison de Melle. Here its amazing adventures began.

"'One case, mummy' is the bold and curt description under which the hallowed remains of a lady Inca, now 'unhouselled, disappointed, unaneled,' were consigned to the railway company or its agents. They accepted it as such; though, when having lost or mislaid the invoice, they opened and examined the case, they attempted to charge for it as a 'corpse,' but afterward dropped the claim.

"Whether mummy or corpse, the unhappy remains duly arrived at Broad street on their last long journey. There a strange thing happened. Having lost the invoice, the railway company found it necessary to open the case and ascertain its contents. curt description under which the hallowed

There was said to be a 'stuffy odor' about the box, as might easily be the when even less perishable articles nun-dried mummies are detained in the goods station of a London railway while the consignees are looking for a lost in-

On finding it contained what experts pronounce to be a mummy, but mere policemen was sure to be regarded as a corpse, the authorities communicated with the Coroner, and this egregious official, not being an expert in mummies, took a strictly professional view of the matter. He summoned a jury and held an inquest.

The jury evidently entered into the humor of the situation, and returned the following verdict, which shows how thorbughly and conscientiously they discharged That the woman was found dead at

the railway goods station, Sun street, on April 15, and did die on some date unknown in some foreign country, probably South America, from some cause unknown. No proofs of a violent death are found, and he body has been dried and buried in some foreign manner, probably sun-dried and cave-buried, and the jurors are satisfied that this body does not show any recent crime in this country, and that the de-ceased was unknown and about 25 years

After the farce of the lost invoice and the grotesque inquest the railway com-pany duly delivered the mummy at the Maison de Melle. But by this time it was scarcely distinguishable from a corpse, and the Belgian authorities promptly or-dered it to be buried as such in the public

should say that the cemetery was t much better place than the museum for t, and we might also add that the cemetery n Peru from which the mummy was originally extracted was the best place of a Peruvian mummies are cheap, it appears, out then they are rather apt to be nasty. \*But railway companies which lose the But railway companies which lose the invoice of a mummy and then connive at the absurdity of a Coroner's inquest, which might have the effect of getting rid of the corpus delicit, must expect to pay for their negligence. So the jury seems to have thought when it awarded Mrs. Aitken compensation to the amount of £75."

During the case the question of the late Inca Princese's condition, whether it was simply a corpse or a mummy, brought up simply a corpse or a mummy, brought up an interesting point. The Judge pointed out that it was one of the best-known out that it was one of the best-and pieces of English law that corpose were not

property.

The corollary to this, of course, would be that if the Peruvian lady were simply a corpse there would be no offence against property committed against her. And it would further follow that if all mummies were corpses the various Kings and Queens of ancient Egypt, which now adorn the British Museum, might be safe spoil for some skilful and enterprising burglar. The recent verdict, however, sets a pre-cedent, than which nothing is stronger

in English law, for future litigante, accord-ing to which it may safely be considered that a coruse, when mummified, is promoted to the condition of property

# Too Many Losses to Issue Calendars

Many of the leading insurance companies that have issued every year attractive calendars have given up that kind of a lvertising this year. The reasons given by certain fire insurance companies is that their losses the current year have been unusual and will not warrant any unnecessary expenses

### The Ready but Discreet Fist. To the EDITOR OF THE SEX - SO: I beg leave to contribute the following considers tions to a discussion which has brought out

to THE BUN Any vigorous sparring match may result

dention that a solar plex is or knock or blow from which a man cannot recover at the call of "time" is been harmful to the beart than a fall from exhaustion at the fintel of a

The operating metches held under the flor ton law more close, orderly contacts, ele-vating to the pitch to tome of the compositionly trief. English and heetch, who main with turis first our to be comprehished upon this particular compared with the chair our comwater a greated, executing it a meretch cover or the air the Vicologi American politics desprise to her entire with his give to

in theory meaning should be setting in the police and courts but burn Menty. Here should be no quarrele. The question is a seminumity where invitable are found eald, what example to keet for Sic hour of the land! I know a key minus father spine also ned igno to figit, whith etc. 100 to primared telemental activity beigness to referre accept little girls and agons by street complete.

. Annear hair at sparring The expension the Montantian was as familia-and short-organized as mouse for a transmission of period of the property of the community total such who the strike come and the transfer and the transfer of the come. that artic are show to obtain all years and how some trains

We about here not now in his class, but see his youth of Ann band the plant of communicate the forest properties to consider all the provide the twenty and the streets for the streets and the streets for the streets.

From Direction (17). Sealor terms of your group to being on your Booking the year to indeed I'm toward Booking first the older year are the more in

IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL. Arguments in Opposition to These Deny or Doubt a Future Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mr. J Spencer Ellis's interesting letter on immortality, in Tun Sun of the 18th, moves me to wonder why agnostice always argue from the viewpoint of infidelity. I strongly dis-sent from Mr. Ellis that science has disproved a future life. The more education a man receives, the more thought he gives to life. ut not in a rut pottering over the pett; details of speculation, the more is he im-pressed with the imperfectness of this life.

without a future.

In man's present high state of unselfishness, good men will risk their lives to save an enemy from danger; will make sacrifices that their families may have comforts. Is uch a man filled with hopes and ambitio intended only as food for the worms? Any east will do for that. The man who raise a grand edifice merely to destroy it would be looked upon as a fool. Is man then greater than that mighty force that has

ade the universe? I study by analogy, as science does. Why Ellis, should a soul reappear to tell the future? Its work here is done, I learned its lesson well or ill, and it no takes up its lessons in another school. the ambition of this life; man would only sit and wait This life would no longer be an educator. Experience is our teacher. The a meal: fatigue makes the chair comfortabl

and the sorrow of this life brings wisdo Mr. Eliis has a mean conception of a Chris-tian. I don't believe any intelligent Christian desires the future for selfish case: nor is he moral from cowardly fear. Faith is a power ful force and cannot be sneered aside. Mr ity it not good, or man would be the same old a reason for life. If Mr. Ellis denies the future then he must give us a reason for existence or his argument has no more point than that of the child who denies anything by merely saying "'taint so." NEW YORK, Dec. 17.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Th perennial question of the immortality of the soul has recently received new attention in the communications to THE SUN by Prof. Goldwin Smith and by his various critics. In arguments of this nature it is safest, it seems to me, to admit at once that all assurances of certainty from either points of view are inadmissible.

"The facts of science," remarks a writer last Sunday's SUN. "fully justify Prof Smith's assertion that immortality has been disproved;" and then follow reasons of his own to support this theory. Let us take one point for illustration: He remarks in proo of his position: "Not one solitary soul that has passed beyond the veil has ever reappeared." We know that confusion is one thing that nature absolutely repels. vegetable, the animal and the mineral kingother in endless round through all the ages they remain forever apart. rock nor tree grants us one whisper of their ounder mystery of death to do more?

The tendency of the world's progress is at present toward extreme refinement In our manufactories, engine lathe and milling machine work with the precision of chro nometers, carrying their limits to the thousandth of an inch. In physiology we no longer lotion, but with the microscope. In physics and astronomy the ineffable and astronomy the ineffable delicacy of spectrum analysis is invoked to tell us of the constitution of suns and stars, or to reveal new elements. In chemistry deduction ingits of refinement give us the perfume of he violet and the heliotrope, and the exquisite aniline dyes, rivalling the prismatic colors in purity. To-day the papers announce the last physical triumph, which despatches across the Atlartic messages upon an ethereal wave of electricity so infinitely rarified that nagination is overwhelmed in any attempt to appreciate it. In all arts, metaphysics and sciences, it is the same. Even in morals the effect is seen; we are beginning no longer to admit a man to the title of gentleman on the strength of his birth, wealth, or influence, but upon his refinement of character.
What is the significance of these facts?

nature is the visible revelation, all are there. Is not death, then, the last divine refinement giving capacity to the soul to appreciate these fart and understand their significance? The vast ine ualities of human life and experience appear to stagger some correspondents who otherwise, it seems to me, might have firmer belief in the positive side of the question. During a walk recently I noticed a dry husk shivering in the winter wind. It was the remnant of a vile weed; long since it had distributed far and wide its poisonous seeds to spring up next summer, a pest to the husbandmen, it would be better for the world, I thought if the useless nuisance had never existed. A mile or two further was the dry stubble of a wheat field. The seeds of these plants had long ago been garnered and ground into flour for the sustenance of mankind Could contrast be greater? But let us examine this subject further. We perceive in the light of science that both of these plants, the poisonous weed and the beneficent wheat, were engaged, last summer, in one and the same duty-converting carbonic acid and water into and oxygen. How ineignificant now appears the specialized function of the wheat!

flyzgen is an invisible production, but it is
the vital energy of the world. Thus man's existence, be it of whatsoever nature it is, contributes finally its viewless increment to the vitalizing spiritual life of the universe in the light of this last consecration, of what reportance are these accompashments and

achievements that absorb the attention of Far and remote to me to near. The vanished gods to me appear. And one to me is fame and shame."

L. Brakting. BEIDGEFORT, CORE, Dec. 18

TO THE ESTTON OF THE BUX - NO. Mr. Wilham I. Stone a article on immortainty of the soul covers some ground, and he might have spared famacif to some extent, for his whole tructure is built open one assertion six, how as someone has certainly demonstrated

and the exection and the fail of Aden are Industrial says when you want to make people believe something you so not believe

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# CRYSTAL GAZING.

Lang Recommends It as a New Diversion for London People.

LONDON, Dec. 14.-Society, using the word in the fairly common sense of people who, having nothing else to do, take up a pastime so thoroughly for a short time that it is called a "craze," may follow Andrew Lang's advice and go in for "crystal gazing." Mr. Lang in an article in the Monthly

Review has been recommending his readers to purchase crystal balls from the Psychical Research Society, peer into them earnestly and see what they shall see, then send along the result to him.

In his instructions to crystal-gazing novices Mr. Lang says:

"It is best to go alone into a room, sit down with the back to the light, place the ball at a just focus in the lap on a dark dress. or a dark piece of cloth, try to exclude reflections, think of anything you please, and stare for, say, five minutes at he ball. That is all."

The crystal is a spherical ball of solid glass, about two inches in diameter. Mr Lang has known people who have seen in a crystal things that were actually hap pening miles away.

More wonderful, he has known two persons.

gazing into separate crystals at the same moment, to see the same picture. Why can people see pictures of real persons and real things in this way? Mr. Lang hints that it may be "a rudimentary sur-vival of some organ that was useful to man when his ancestors were other kinds of

The Secretary of the Psychical Research Society says that as a result of Mr Lang's article he has been having more orders for crystals than he can execute. The only trouble is that Mr. Lang held out the false hope that a crystal could be bought for as little as half a crown, whereas the lowest price at which they can be furnished is four shillings each.

### PHOTOGRAPHING A QUEEN: Wilhelmina's Royal and Ordinary Smiles -Why One Likeness Was Spoiled

A London photographer who has probably taken more photographs of and queens than any other man in the world. has been confiding to the public, under a discreet but not wholly blind incognito, his professional experiences with royalty. "The Queen of Holland, he says, "is, with King Edward, one of the most charmingly easy sitters I ever took. She does not mind to what trouble she puts herself so long as she can please you and look, as her Majesty once said to me, 'as a queen should

"Shortly before her marriage I was summoned to Amsterdam to take the young Queen. I was somewhat nervous at first in the royal presence and Queen Wilhel mina quickly noticed this.

"Now I want to look very nice indeed in this photograph, said her Majesty, smiling, and if you feel ill at ease I am sure you will not be able to do justice to yourself or to me.

"After that I soon lost all my nervous-

"After that I soon lost all my nervousness. I thought her Majesty looked rather
too dignified and stately, so I said:
"Will your Majesty please smile a little?
I am sure the photograph will come out
much better then."
"The Queen laughed and said: 'Certainly. But how ought I to smile? Like
a queen or like an ordinary mortal?
"The photograph proved to be a fine one

The photograph proved to be a fine one i Queen Wilhelmina was delighted with it.
Oh, you have indeed taken me nicely this time,' she said some time afterward to me as she examined the picture. Why, this photograph is far better than the other one you took of me! But then you were not to blame. I remember I had tight boots on at the time, and oh, how they pinches me! How can one look happy or cheerfu with tight boots?""

## MRS. ROOSEVELT'S RECEPTION. About 500 Women Attend-Bouquets

and a Tea for the Receiving Party. WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.-About 500 women brayed the cold weather to-day to attend Here is a new world science is opening before us, and we perceive that the ultimate laws of the universe, the primal energies of which Assisting Mrs. Roosevelt's second public reception Assisting Mrs. Roosevelt were Mrs. Root. Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Hitchoock and Miss Wilson. Behind the line, in addition to Miss Root, Miss Knox and the Misses Hitchcock, were Mrs. Cortelyou, Mrs. Cowles, Mrs. Rixey, Mrs. Bingham Mrs. William Loeb, the Misses McKenna and a number of young ladies from residen-society, most of whom are close friends of Miss Alice Roosevelt and who have made their début or will do so this winter. Roosevelt wore a becoming costume white Venetian cloth, with appliques old yellow lace, and carried a bounget of pink roses. All of the ladies of the re-ceiving party found awaiting them up-their arrival at the White House lang bunches of flowers suited to their costs
As is the custom after the fatigue reception, a tea was served to those assisted in receiving in one of the priv pariors. As at the reception of last Sa day, the drawing rooms and corridors w

# One and Two-Tenths Brunk

the reception.

From the Washington Times Judge, your Honor, this man was and two-tenths drunk last night. liceman told the police court Judge vetay when a decrepit old fellow named he

was arraigned on a charge of variancy.

What's that? asked the court
do not figure that out?

Well, your thoner, your three is
if a man lakes ten drinks he's hadrd. Kelly went down for thirty days

### Inquisitive lows Postmasters Luiled From the Aiden Times

A man who was strictly onto be into the Ackley postoffice the other tent on sending a short message the matte in such a war that erpersing postmanter sing the road feed it. So he knowled a postal card his message on it and then provide a savelope, anclosed the postal carefully directed it carefully directed it carefully directed it carefully.

The Forked Wand

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REFERENCE VA., Dec. 18.